

17 PROPERTIES NAMED TO VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

–Register listings promote state and federal tax-credit rehabilitations and preservation easements –

(Listings cover historic resources in counties of Botetourt, Carroll, Clarke, Cumberland, Fauquier, Grayson, Rappahannock, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Surry, and Wise; and cities of Charlottesville, Emporia, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Petersburg, and Suffolk)

RICHMOND – A post-Civil War gristmill in Shenandoah County, a Girl Scout cabin in Wise County, and a 22,000-acre rural historic district in Fauquier County were among the 17 places added to the Virginia Landmarks Register in September by the Department of Historic Resources.

Lantz Mill, near Edinburg in the Shenandoah Valley, was constructed around 1867, after the site's original circa-1813 mill was burned by Union forces during the Civil War. Unlike many mills in the Valley of stone construction, Lantz is a wood-frame building. It contains a rare collection of late 19th-century roller mill flour-grinding equipment and machinery, representing an era before industrially produced flour was readily available. Lantz Mill served the local community for 146 years, remaining in operation—as a feed mill—until the late 1970s.

Terrace Park Girl Scout Cabin was built in 1938 by young men in the National Youth Administration, an agency that was part of the federal government's New Deal programs established during The Great Depression. The log cabin, which features high-quality craftsmanship, a stone fireplace, and a then-modern kitchen, resulted from a local surge in Girl Scout membership after the national organization targeted expansion in western Virginia, especially the coal camps in the area around Appalachia and Big Stone Gap in Wise County. The success of this effort led the local Girl Scouts to establish the Terrace Park cabin for recreational use and as a place to provide leadership training to young women.

The John Marshall's Leeds Manor Rural Historic District is associated with the Marshall family "syndicate," which included Chief Justice John Marshall. Family members purchased the land from an heir of Lord Fairfax, who had established his Manor of Leeds within the district in 1736. The district is significant today in understanding the 18th-century exploration and settlement of Virginia's northern Piedmont, particularly Fauquier County.

During the Civil War the John Marshall's Leeds Manor Rural Historic District was part of the area patrolled by Confederate Col. John S. Mosby and his Rangers and its roadways and railroads served as important military routes. Defined today by its continuous agricultural use—from 18th-century subsistence farms to an area well-known for its orchards, cattle, and horse breeding in the early 20th-century to, more recently, vineyards and wineries— the district features historic farmsteads, stone walls, cemeteries,

churches, schools, mills, commercial and industrial buildings, as well as several African-American communities that were established in the late 19th century and that continue to be associated with descendants of the founding families.

In addition to those three landmarks, the following properties were also added to the state register by the two advisory boards of the Department of Historic Resources during their joint quarterly meeting on September 5; the properties are grouped according to the department's appropriate regional district office:

In the Capital (Richmond) and central piedmont region:

- Cohen House, in **Petersburg**, constructed about 1851, is named for Charles Cohen, the fourth owner and a prominent local merchant who occupied it from about 1891 to about 1900. Cohen added a third floor and a mansard roof and remodeled the house into its current Second Empire style.
- Hamilton School, in **Cumberland County**, built in 1910, initially served students from areas of Cumberland, Goochland, and Powhatan counties. In 1911, the school was selected by the state as one of two model education programs in Virginia, and in 1914 it began certified teacher-training programs. Today the former school is a designated stop on the *Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail*, which honors the legacy of 41 public schools in south-central Virginia that helped advance desegregation and the civil rights movement.
- Preston Court Apartments, in **Charlottesville**, built in 1928 in a Classical Revival—design is an excellent and well-preserved example of the garden-style apartments popularized in the first-three decades of the 20th century.
- Pyramid Motors, in **Lynchburg**, was constructed in 1937 for a Ford and Lincoln car dealership. The building's Art Moderne architecture featured streamlined and modern contours, similar to the Zephyr automobiles sold there.

In the Northern Virginia and Shenandoah Valley region:

- A boundary increase to the Greenway Historic District, which was originally listed in 1993, in southern **Clarke County**, covers Ebenezer Baptist Church and cemetery. The Ebenezer congregation and cemetery date back to the mid-1880s, an era when many freed African Americans relocated from surrounding plantations after the Civil War to the village of White Post. The plain, one-story church was constructed in 1918, and is still used today.
- Old Town Historic District, in **Harrisonburg**, is a well-preserved example of a late 19th- through mid-20th-century neighborhood, which has been home to many of Harrisonburg's most prominent families, beginning as early as 1850. The district serves as an architectural record of changing residential styles during the 20th century

and features houses of superior craftsmanship and regional building materials such as locally quarried limestone and local brick.

- Scrabble School, in **Rappahannock County**, was built in 1921-22 for the education of African American children with \$800 in funds from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation, which also provided the two-classroom plan used in construction. Originally called Woodville School, Scrabble was the first of four Rosenwald schools erected in the county between 1921-28
- Jonathan Peale House, in **Rockingham County**, built circa 1845, was used as a headquarters by Confederate General Stonewall Jackson in April, 1862, during the Civil War. The property also includes a two-story brick building that was originally built as a slave quarters.

In the Roanoke and southwest region:

- Fries Boarding Houses, in **Grayson County**, were part of the original plan for the company-town of Fries, established in 1901 by the Washington Mills Company. The two well-preserved boarding houses reveal the complexity of the company's design for the town.
- Lauderdale, in **Botetourt County**, is a Federal-style house built circa 1821 for Henry Bowyer, a Revolutionary War veteran and Botetourt County Clerk.
- Point Pleasant School, in **Carroll County**, was built in 1911 for students from the local community, grades one through seven, and is a well-preserved and unaltered example of a one-room schoolhouse. It closed in 1948.

From the Tidewater region:

- Belfield Historic District and Hicksford Historic District were the commercial centers of separate towns separated by the Meherrin River until the two joined together in 1887 to form **Emporia**. Both the Belfield and Hicksford historic districts reveal the characteristics of rural small town commercial centers transformed by robust economic growth during the later 19th and early 20th centuries. Originally Hicks Ford was platted as the location of the Greenville County seat, the role now served by Emporia.
- Mount Pleasant, one of the earliest English settlements in Virginia, is located in **Surry County**. It is associated with the settler Richard Pace and the Native American servant Chanco, who warned in 1622 that the Powhatan were planning a surprise attack against Jamestown. The property reveals a nearly unbroken record of the evolution of a Virginia plantation; it also is important for its prehistoric archaeological information, which reveals that as early as 6,500 to 2000 B.C. the site was occupied by people.

The Department of Historic Resources will forward these nominations to the National Park Service for consideration to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Photographs and detailed information about each of property are available on the DHR website at http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/homepage_features/board_activities.htm.

Listing a property on the VLR places no restrictions on owners, although the recognition allows property owners to receive technical assistance from the DHR or pursue state rehabilitation tax-credit incentives and programs. Listing on the state and national registers has spurred economic revitalization efforts in many historic districts throughout the state. Owners of register-listed properties also have the opportunity to donate the development rights to their properties to the Commonwealth through the preservation easement program.

For a property or resource to be listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register, it must meet important historic criteria. It can do so through association with significant historical events or persons, or through possession of outstanding archaeological or architectural features.

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